# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# DEFENCE
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:53
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2003
PROCUREMENT OF AJTs
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR;V. VETRISELVAN

**Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:**

(a) the progress made regarding procurement of Advance Jet Trainers (AJTs);

(b) the number of trainee pilots died during the last three years till date and the number of aircraft lost in the absence of AJTs;

(c) the details of measures taken by the Government to enhance the quality of training with a view to improve the skill level, ability to exercise sound judgement and improve the situational awareness among the pilots, keeping in view the increasing incidents of aircraft accidents; and

(d) the extent to which success has been achieved in this regard?

## Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (d): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 53 FOR 20.2.2003

Various options for procurement of Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) have been under examination by the Government. No contract for the AJT has been finalized, as yet. It would not be possible to lay down a time limit for such a major procurement project. However, the Government is keen on early finalization of the issue.

2. The details of pilots killed and aircraft lost during the last three years are given below:-

| Year | Pilots Killed | Aircraft lost |
|---|---|---|
| 2000-2001 | 15 | 27 |
| 2001-2002 | 09 | 20 |
| 2002-2003 (as of 17th February, 2003) | 07 | 21 |

There is no direct relationship between the aircraft crashes and the absence of an AJT.

3. The following measures have been taken to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill and confidence level of pilot trainees:-

(a) For ab-initio training the flying syllabus of stage- I training have been increased by 7 hours which includes 04 sorties of 0:45 hours each of night flying dual and 04 sorties of 1:00 hour each of Close Formation:

(b) Practice Procedure Platform (PPPs) & Cockpit Procedure Trainers (CPTs) for all ab-initio trainer aircraft have been planned to be inducted. This would enhance the ability of trainees to exercise sound judgement, improve emergency handling capabilities and situational awareness; and

(c) In Stage-II training for fighter pilots, the syllabus has been increased by 04 hours to include Medium Level Tactical Formation exercises. This would enhance the level of confidence in a trainee to handle complex operational exercises in next phase of training.

4. The effect of the above measures can be assessed in next two to three years when the pilots gain operational status at various squadrons.